Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4143

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: BEXP, HU, US

SUBJECT: DASC DOWNEY VISIT TO BUDAPEST

REF: BUDAPEST 2919

- 1. CAPITLIZING ON BRIEF SEPTEMBER 4 VISIT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY COMMERCE (DASC) ARTHUR T. DOWNEY, EMBASSY ARRANGED TWELVE-HOUR PROBRAM WHICH PLEASED MAGYARS BY SHOWING CONTINUED TOP-LEVEL U.S. INTEREST IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL E/C RELATIONS WHILE AT SAME TIME PROVIDING DASC QUICK FIRST-HAND EXPOSURE TO HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC SCENE.
- 2. THROUGH GOOD OFFICES ODON KALLOS, PRESIDENT, HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (HCC), EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO MAXIMIZE EXTREMELY LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE WITH WORKING LUNCHEON WHICH INCLUDED AMONG GUESTS JANOS SALUSINSZKY (GENERAL DIRECTOR, HUNGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE BANK), BELA DIENES (GENERAL DIRECTOR, TUNGSRAM), JOSZEF MOLNAR (CO-CHAIRMAN JOINT US/HUNGARIAN COMMITTEE OF HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE), FERENC TOTH (MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE), PLUS DCM AND COMMATT. HCC KEEN INTEREST IN VISIT INDICATIVE OF KALLOS VIEW OF BEWT AS HCC MAJOR COORDINATING LINK WITH U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY. DURING HIS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH DOWNEY KALLOS INDICATED IN STRONG TERMS HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH CURRENT HCC/USCC RELATIONSHIP. SAID HE HOPED USG WOULD PLAY DECISIVE ROLE (EVEN IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEHIND SCENES) IN CHOICE OF NEW COUNCIL HEAD.

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- 3. KALLOS ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO QUERY DOWNEY ON FUTURE OF EAST-WEST TRADE CENTER AND WAS SOMEWHAT APPEASED WHEN ASSURED IT WOULD CONTINUE IN VIENNA AND NOT BE MOVED TO BUCHAREST AS HE HAD HEARD RUMORED.
- 4. DOWNEY ALSO RECEIVED WORD ON HCC PROPOSED CHEMICAL INDUSTRY TRADE MISSION TO U.S. SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 13-30 WHICH WILL BE HEADED BY ADAM JUHASZ, DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND INCLUDE TEN TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS PLUS ISTVAN ELIAS, HCC, ACTING AS SECRETARY TGFMISSION. DASC AND EMBOFF PROMISED FULL SUPPORT. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS WITHIN WEEK.
- 5. DOWNEY ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE MEETING WITH BELA DIENES, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF TUNGSRAM, TO DISCUSS TUNGSRAM/FAIRCHILD CASE. (SEE REFTEL)
- 6. FINALLY, AT DINNER HOSTED BY DCM, DOWNEY CONCLUDED HIS HUNGARIAN DISCUSSIONS. OVERPROGRAMMED, OVERFED AND UNDERSLEPT DASC LEFT FOR SOFIA AND PLOVDIV AT DAWN SEPTEMBER 5. MCAULIFFE

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